

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Mickey Rea

March Nature Center Hours:

9:30 am - 4:30 pm CDT Thursday-Sunday

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov



Eastern Phoebe



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Cookie Ferguson

Kaitlin Rogers



Need a Park Map?

All programs are free (unless noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent.

Saturday, March 5

National Aldo Leopold Weekend

Join us for a program this weekend celebrating this great author and ecologist!

10am A Sand County Hike!

Explore the awakening forest and wetlands this morning. We'll meet at the Nature Center and investigate some of the things Aldo Leopold would have noticed had he been hiking on this fine early March day. BB



2pm The Green Fire Movie!

Help celebrate the life and times of one of America's greatest ecologists, Aldo Leopold, today! We'll be showing the new documentary that showcases this legendary conservationist and how his work influenced the environmental movement of today. The showing takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Sunday, March 6

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

2pm 100th Anniversary of State Parks! If you haven't seen this PBS special, come check it out! Explore 100 years of state park history, from the first state park to what's being done now in this 45-minute documentary in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Saturday, March 12

9am 16th Annual Running with the Irish 5K

An annual tradition returns with the 16th Annual Running with the Irish! The competitive run and non-competitive walk takes place throughout the park. To register, visit www.stpatsparish.org/5k-run. Note: Park roads will be congested before and during the event.

2pm Leprechaun Hunt! Help a naturalist use his GPS unit to find leprechauns and their gold. Meet in front of the Nature Center for a 45 minute hunt. Great family fun and prizes for the kids! BB



Sunday, March 13

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Explore the science of bird banding this morning at the Nature Center. We'll throw up the banding nets and look at everything we learn by investigating these birds up close and in the hand. BB

2pm Fire on the Prairie! Bring out your inner pyro-maniac in this exciting hour at the Nature Center. Learn how prescribed fire is used to help our habitats, and then help the naturalist start a fire if conditions are right! It's an annual spring break tradition that's always hot! Kids under 12 **must** have a parent or responsible adult. Join us! BB



Saturday, March 19

Welcome Potawatomi Hikers!

10am Feeling on Top of the World! Or the dunes! Join guest naturalist Cookie Ferguson for a hike to the dune tops and the great early spring views. We'll also seek out those early signs of spring. Meet at the Nature Center. CF

2pm Who Goes Where! With spring around the corner, many animals will be coming out for folks to enjoy and view. Learn about the unique habitats that make the dunes home to so many special animals. We'll even have a few live ones with us! Meet in the Nature Center auditorium. CF

Sunday, March 20

10am Phoebe Time! Join the naturalist on a 45 minute discovery hike looking for the first Phoebes of the year. They traditionally arrive now and begin setting up their territories. We meet at the Nature Center for this easy stroll to the Dunes Creek bridge. Bring the family and join us! CF

2pm A Spring Walk! It's the first full day of spring, join us at the Nature Center for a casual walk to the wetlands and back as we seek out signs of spring around us, including the first wildflower of the season! Join us! CF

Saturday March 26

Welcome Potawatomi Hikers!

10am Spring into Action for the Birds! Visit the Nature Center to help us in our morning feeding of the birds out back. Afterwards, we'll have a little bird feeder project going on that you can take home to help the birds where you live. Come on out. CF

2pm Spring Wire Wrapping Workshops Join the state park naturalists for an introduction to the art of wire wrapping and try your hand at creating a couple beach glass wire wrapped pendants or necklaces to take home with you. The workshop is two hours long and takes place in the Nature Center auditorium. A \$5 registration fee is payable the day of the workshop. To register, call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.



Sunday March 27

10am Lion or Lamb Walk. Did March leave us like a lion or lamb!? Strap on your hiking shoes and join us for some of the early morning sounds this fine morning. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours, and meet at the Nature Center. We'll be out for an hour or so. CF

2pm Spring Wire Wrapping Workshops Join the state park naturalists for an introduction to the art of wire wrapping and try your hand at creating a couple beach glass wire wrapped pendants or necklaces to take home with you. The workshop is two hours long and takes place in the Nature Center auditorium. A \$5 registration fee is payable the day of the workshop. To register, call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

Make Plans for the 2nd Annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival!

May 5-8, 2016



**Register at
www.indunesbirdingfestival.com**